



2023 City of Elk River Deer Herd Management Archery Hunt Rules

As the metro area has continued to expand, parks have become enclosed with roadways and developments, that isolate deer populations. With insufficient natural predators, deer populations have increased beyond the carrying capacity of the land. To control deer population, increase public safety on roadways, and minimize impacts on the environment and private property surrounding park land, the City of Elk River has implemented controlled archery deer hunts. The intent of these hunts is to maintain a healthy population of deer within the parks while minimizing the damage because of overpopulation.

Hunts will be managed by volunteers appointed by the City of Elk River.

Type of hunt

For hunters eighteen and older, harvest limits will follow current year Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regulations except that antlered bucks must have at least one 4-point antler to be legal for harvest.

For disabled hunters and hunters seventeen (17) years of age and under, harvest limits will follow current year DNR regulations with no antler point restrictions.

This is a walk-in hunt. All Elk River city parks are closed to public motor vehicle use. Vehicles must be parked in designated areas and display their vehicle permit; hunters are required to access their hunting location on foot. The retrieval of harvested deer must also be on foot, non-motorized carts for hauling deer are permitted.

Eligibility

All hunters shall:

- 1) Have a valid Minnesota DNR archery license including management license when applicable.
- 2) Possess a current year City of Elk River hunting permit.
- 3) Attend a pre-hunt orientation meeting.
- 4) Be at least eighteen (18) years old to hunt alone.

All hunters shall be Elk River Residents living within the Elk River corporate limit. This excludes residents of adjacent townships with an Elk River mailing address.

Youth less than eighteen (18) years of age may hunt if they have both a valid DNR license and a qualified adult supervisor. The adult supervisor must also possess a valid license or have completed a DNR firearm safety course and must remain in close proximity (<50 feet) of the youth at all times. Both the youth and the adult supervisor must complete their applications as a party. There must be one adult supervisor twenty-one or older for each youth under eighteen. Hunters under eighteen (18) years of age must shoot their own deer.

Individuals with a big game violation in the last three (3) years are not eligible to participate in this hunt.

Violation of this rule and other hunting rules will result in a lifetime hunting ban for this hunt.

Application and Fees

Application fee: \$10 non-refundable fee per person is due at the time of application submission.

Applications are due by August 15, 2023. Successful applicants will be notified by August 22, 2023.

Successful applicants must attend a pre-hunt orientation at **6:30 p.m., September 6, 2023, at the Elk River Public Works Facility, 19000 Proctor Road, Elk River.**

Hunters may apply individually or as a member of a two-person team. Hunters applying as a two-person team must submit both applications together along with the \$10 application fee for each hunter. Hunters applying as a two-person team will enter at the lower of the preference levels of the two hunters.

Hunter Selection

Twelve (12) zones will be available to hunt with twenty-four (24) hunters selected by lottery for the 2023 hunt with two hunters selected per zone. All selected hunters will be eligible to participate in the hunts and are encouraged to coordinate hunting times and efforts with the other hunters within their respective zones.

Each hunter must successfully complete an archery proficiency test consisting of placing four (4) out of six (6) shots into an eight-inch (8") diameter target at 20 yards. The proficiency target must be presented at the time of the orientation meeting to participate in the hunt. Proficiency shoots will be conducted from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., August 30, 2023, at the Woodland Trails Regional Park Archery Range 20135 Elk Lake Rd NW.

Each applicant will get one chance in the lottery. Applicants not selected in past years will receive an additional lottery chance for each year of unsuccessful selection. Hunters who apply as a two-person team will be entered into the drawing as a team and will be assigned the same hunt zone together.

Hunting Schedule

Parks will remain open to the public for the duration the open archery deer season. Two hunters will be selected to hunt each of the following parks:

- Harris Island/Camp Cozy
- Sedge Meadow Park
- Birch Meadow Park
- Alba Ridge Park

Woodland Trails Regional Park will have six hunting zones, with two hunters assigned to each zone. Hillside City Park will have two hunting zones with two hunters assigned to each zone.

Hunts may be canceled at any time if issues arise warranting that closure.

Hunting Area Selection

Hunt area selection will be chosen at random during the lottery drawing with no preferences for area selection for any reason. Hunters will receive notification of their assigned hunt zone following successful selection on August 22, 2023.

Emergency Contact Information

For emergencies and to report non-hunting related issues, dial 911. To report hunting violations dial #TIP on your cell phone or dial 1-800-652-9093.

Hunt Rules

1. All hunters, except those with a handicap exemption, must hunt from an elevated stand a minimum of six (6) feet above the ground. Approved handicap hunters may hunt in a ground blind and must be accompanied by a non-hunting mentor meeting the same qualifications as those needed for youth less than 18 years old.
2. Only portable stands supplied by the hunter are allowed. Permanent stands are prohibited.
3. Screw-in type steps are prohibited. Stands must be accessed by strap on steps or ladders.
4. All portable stands shall bear the name of the hunter and the *City of Elk River Hunter ID* visible within five (5) feet of the ground.
5. All hunters must wear a safety harness while in a stand.
6. Only two stands per hunter.
7. Stands may be left in place within the hunter's assigned hunt zone; however, stands left unattended are at your own risk. It is recommended stands be removed daily or secured to the tree.
8. An article of blaze orange clothing must be worn when traveling to and from your hunting location.
9. All harvested deer entrails shall be removed intact in a plastic bag and disposed of properly.
10. The establishment of minimal shooting lanes is permissible. Only brush, small tree branches (1" in diameter or less) and buckthorn of all sizes may be removed for this purpose. No trees, big or small, may be cut down during the process.
11. The timing of the tracking of wounded deer is up to the hunter. A bow may be carried while tracking on city park property, but not private property. Please ask permission before entering private property, whether it is posted or not.
12. To ensure the safety of the hunters, all hunters must contact the hunt manager prior to entering the hunt zone on each day they hunt and when they leave, but no later than one hour after legal shooting hours on each day they hunt to alert the manager of their status.
13. Following each hunt, the hunter shall send an exit report to the hunt manager to include the number of deer sighted along with a breakdown of the number of fawns, does, and bucks.
14. Kills and wounded animals must be reported within 24 hours of harvest by contacting the hunt manager.
15. The 2023 hunt manager is Wayne Becklin, 763-232-3934.

There is zero tolerance for violation of hunt rules. Elk River Deer Herd Management Hunt privileges shall be suspended immediately and indefinitely for any violation.

I have read the above rules and agree to abide by them.

I, as the applicant, am fully aware of the inherent risks and hazards associated with hunting and the use of archery equipment. I knowingly and expressly assume the risk of my exposure to dangerous conditions. This assumption of risk does not extend to the willful, wanton, or intentional misconduct by the City of Elk River ("City") or any person acting on behalf of the City.

I, as the applicant, understand and agree that neither the City, or any person acting on behalf of the City, may be held liable in any way for any event which occurs in connection with the hunting activity which may result in harm, death, injury, or other damage to me. This waiver of liability does not waive liability for any injuries that I obtain as the result of willful, wanton, or intentional misconduct by the City or any person acting on behalf of the City. Further, I as the applicant will fully defend and indemnify the City from any claims, lawsuits, causes of action, or judgments arising or resulting from my activities.

	Last	First	Full middle name
Name	_____		
Address	_____ _____		
Date of birth	_____		
MNDNR #	_____		
(Located on your DNR Hunting License)			
Email	_____		
Cell phone	_____		
Home phone	_____		
Signature	_____		

Parent Signature if applicant is less than 18 _____

If applying as a two-person team, list your team members name _____

Please submit completed application and \$10 application fee to either of the following locations:

By Mail
Deer Herd Management Program
Elk River Public Works Facility
19000 Proctor Road
Elk River, MN 55330

In Person
Deer Herd Management Program
Elk River City Hall
13065 Orono Parkway
Elk River, MN 55330